

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM USDEL SECRETARY IN NEW YORK

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY

S E C R E T SECTO 11007

NODIS/CHEROKEE

FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR, UN, IS EG

SUBJ: MESSAGE TO FAHMY

1. PLEASE CONVEY THE FOLLOWING ORAL MESSAGE TO FAHMY FROM SECRETARY.

2. IN HIS MEETING WITH ASAD, THE SECRETARY DID NOT GET A STRONG PORTENT OF AN ADVERSE REACTION OF ASAD TO AN INTERIM AGREEMENT. ASAD DID EXPRESS EXPLICIT DISAGREEMENT WITH SECRETARY'S VIEW THAT INTERIM AGREEMENT WOULD OPEN NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER PROGRESS. SECRETARY STRONGLY REITERATED PLEDGE PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED WITH SADAT THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO MAKE SERIOUS EFFORT TO GET TALKS STARTED BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL. ASAD, WHILE EXPRESSING DOUBT THAT ANYTHING COULD BE ACHIEVED, WAS NON-COMMITTAL AND DID NOT EXPLICITLY REJECT IDEA OF TALKS GETTING STARTED BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL ABOUT MID-OCTOBER, BEGINNING THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS UNDER U.S. AUSPICES. IN CONVERSATION WHICH OUR AMBASSADOR HAD WITH KHADDAM JUST 24 HOURS AGO FOREIGN MINISTER INFORMED US THAT SYRIA WOULD REACH ITS DECISION ON WHETHER TO ENGAGE IN FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS IN CLOSE COORDINATION WITH JORDAN AND THE PLO AND SYRIAN DECISION WOULD BE TAKEN ONLY AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF ALL POSSIBILITIES.

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3. TELL FAHMY THAT SECRETARY SHARES HIS VIEW THAT SYRIAN REACTION CAN PROBABLY BE ATTRIBUTED IN PART TO CURRENT SOVIET ATTITUDE.

4. AS TO HUSSEIN, HIS GREATEST EXPRESSION OF CONCERN FOCUSED ON THE RECENT HOLD-UP BY CONGRESS OF THE 14 HAWK BATTERIES. WE INDICATED THAT WE WOULD MAKE IN ALL-OUT EFFORT WITH OUR CONGRESS AND THAT WE FELT THAT THE ATMOSPHERE SHOULD BE BETTER IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE INTERIM AGREEMENT.

5. AS TO THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL, HUSSEIN STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE THAT IT NOT BE AN END IN ITSELF. WE INFORMED HIM THAT IT IS OUR INTENTION TO MAKE A SERIOUS EFFORT TO GET SYRIAN-ISRAELI TALKS STARTED. FAHMY SHOULD BE AWARE, HOWEVER, THAT THE ATMOSPHERE SURROUNDING OUR TALKS WITH HUSSEIN DID NOT REFLECT THE SAME KIND OF WARMNESS WHICH HAS BEEN CHARACTERISTIC OF OUR PREVIOUS TALKS. HUSSEIN SAID MORE TO US ABOUT THE NEED FOR FURTHER PROGRESS BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL THAN HE DID WITH RESPECT TO THE JORDANIAN ASPECT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. IN SHORT, WE WOULD DESCRIBE HUSSEIN'S ATTITUDE REGARDING THE INTERIM AGREEMENT AS AMBIVALENT, REFLECTING THE REALIZATION THAT THE SITUATION FOR HIM AND IN THE AREA WOULD BE BAD IF WE HAD NOT SUCCEEDED, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME UNDERSCORING THE THEME THAT THERE MUST BE PROGRESS ON ALL FRONTS.
KISSINGER

SECRET

NNN

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